

[New Mexico Business Weekly](#)

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Rural communities are set to receive nearly \$250,000 in grants for economic development.

The funds are from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program. They were announced by U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján, D-Santa Fe, and Terry Brunner, [USDA](#) Rural Development's state director.

[Kit Carson Electric Co](#) -Operative in Taos will receive \$100,000 to conduct energy audits and provide renewable energy development assistance for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. The [co-op](#) will provide a minimum of 148 energy audits as well as education and training on energy efficiency and renewable energy through 50 workshops and displays.

USDA is also awarding \$99,000 to the New Mexico Economic Development Department through its Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. The fund will be used to provide money to an existing revolving loan fund to assist small businesses in MainStreet districts around the state.

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